

Message Text

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13

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00 TRSE-00

EUR-12 ERDA-05 ISO-00 /030 W
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R 260918Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2178

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EXCON FOR COMMERCE

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC EAIR ETRD SZ

SUBJ: I AND R REQUEST, CASE 194727

REF: STATE 30095

1. IN RESPONSE TO THE REFTEL REQUEST, THE EMBASSY HAS CHECKED ITS COMMERCIAL FILES FOR INFORMATION ON "SATA SA" AND ON "FICOSEX." OUR FILES SHOW SATA SA (SOCIETE ANONYME DE TRANSPORT AERIEN AT MEYRIN-GENEVA) AS ONE OF EUROPE'S PRINCIPLE CHARTER AIRLINES. THE COMPANY, FOUNDED IN 1966, IS CONSIDERED WELL-ESTABLISHED AND HAS A GOOD REPUTATION. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF FICOSEX.

2. THE EDO HAS APPROACHED MR WALTER FREI OF THE SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. MR FREI IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED SATA-FICOSEX AND WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE PROPOSED TRANSACTION. ACCORDING TO MR FREI, FICOSEX WAS SET UP BY SATA SA SPECIFICALLY TO PURCHASE THE SWISSAIR DC-8 MENTIONED IN REFTEL. THE PRESIDENT AND ALL BOARD MEMBERS OF FICOSEX ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF SATA.

3. SATA OFFICERS HAVE EXPLAINED TO SWISS FEDERAL AIR AUTHORITIES THAT THEY ARE NOT WHOLLY SATISFIED WITH
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THE DC-8 AIRCRAFT SINCE IT DOES NOT EXACTLY MEET THEIR

CHARTER NEEDS. UNDER THE ARRANGEMENT THEY HAVE SET UP, AS EXPLAINED TO SWISS AUTHORITIES, FICOGEX WILL LEASE THE DC-8 TO SATA FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD DURING WHICH TIME SATA HOPES AN AIRCRAFT (SUCH AS AN AIRBUS) WHICH IS MORE SUITABLE FOR THEM WILL BECOME AVAILABLE. AFTER INVESTIGATION, THE SWISS FEDERAL AIR OFFICE HAS ACCEPTED THIS EXPLANATION AND WILL GRANT PERMISSION FOR THE TRANSFER INsofar AS SWISS LAW APPLIES.

4. SWISS AUTHORITIES ARE NOW IN THE PROCESS OF APPROVING AN OPERATING LICENSE FOR FICOGEX AND WILL BE CHECKING THE FIRM FROM TIME TO TIME TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT IT IS OPERATING THE AIRCRAFT ACCORDING TO SWISS RULES AND SPECIFICATION. MR FREI ASSURED THE EDO THAT THERE IS NO DANGER OF THE AIRCRAFT BEING SOLD TO RHODESIA OR USED FOR UNDESIRABLE CHARTER OPERATIONS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS.

DAVIS

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 26 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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